

Virginia Commission for the Arts
June 15-16, 2011
Minutes
Isle of Wight Arts League, Smithfield

Members Attending: Nicholas J. Covatta, Chair; Lisa Alderman, Willie Dell, Gwen Everett, Tina Lea, Sharron Kitchen Miller, Evelia Gonzalez Porto, Ann Edwards Rust, Marcia Neuhaus Speck, Marcia Thalhimer, Ann Bondurant Trinkle, Vaughan Webb, and Deborah Wyld

Staff Attending: Peggy Baggett, Foster Billingsley, and Cathy Welborn

Visitors: Rick Bodson and Sheila Gwaltney, Isle of Wight Art League; Mary Ann Racine, Riverviews Artspace; Jim Thompson, Virginians for the Arts

Introduction

Nick Covatta, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Rick Bodson and Sheila Gwaltney welcomed the Commissioners to Smithfield and gave an overview of the Isle of Wight Arts League.

Deborah Wyld made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 30, 2011, meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Peggy Baggett reviewed the agenda and the grant review materials in the meeting books.

Charitable Contributions

Peggy Baggett gave an overview of the decision by the Virginia Attorney General on state funding of charitable contributions. She recommended that the Commission subtract from eligible revenue for General Operating Support grants any amount donated by arts organizations for charitable purposes. Evelia Porto made a motion to adopt this recommendation, effective immediately. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Number of Programs for the Public

Marcia Neuhaus Speck noted that the Commission guidelines state that General Operating Support grantees are expected to present at least three different programs or services for the public each year but do not specify that the three programs should be in Virginia. She requested that the guidelines for funding be amended in the future to include the phrase "in Virginia." She noted that at least one northern Virginia organization would be ineligible for funding under this guideline change. Other Commissioners agreed, stating that the organization should be eligible for funding this year, given the current guidelines, but that the intent of the Commission is clear that the programs should be in Virginia.

Area I General Operating Support Grants

Lisa Alderman, who observed the Area I panel meeting, commented that the panelists were experienced and well-prepared.

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on the applications.

Appalachian Children's Theatre. The panelists praised the past work of this organization but were unclear on the current year's activities or the activities for the year of the grant. Ann Rust expressed concern about the increase in salaries when it appears that the organization is reducing its programming. After discussion Vaughan Webb made a motion to award Priority 3 funding, contingent upon the organization providing a detailed description of activities in the current year, including documentation such as marketing materials, and of plans for the year of the grant. The Executive Committee will take the final action on the grant request after these materials are received. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Birthplace of Country Music Alliance. The Commissioners expressed concern about the lack of staff for this organization and about the slow pace of the capital campaign. They also expressed concern that the organization has temporarily moved its headquarters to Tennessee and that the majority of its board members are Tennessee residents. Questions were also raised about the possible merger with Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion. Vaughan Webb made a motion to award Priority 3 funding with notification that 2011-12 will be the last year of funding unless there is substantial progress in building an organizational structure and completing the capital campaign. The motion was seconded and approved 12-Yes, 1-No. On the second day of the meeting the Commission returned to this application. Overnight Peggy Baggett was notified by the Director of Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion that the two boards had voted to merge. In the discussion Nick Covatta noted that the boards had voted their intent to merge but that many proposed business mergers fail to take place after negotiations on the details of the proposed mergers. It was also noted that all communications about the proposed merger had come from one organization but not both. The Commissioners agreed by consensus that the grants to both organizations should be contingent upon receiving a detailed plan from each about expectations for the merger. The Executive Committee was authorized to take the final action on the two grant requests.

Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion. The Commissioners agreed with the panel and staff recommendations of Priority 1 funding for this organization. On the second day of the meeting, after receiving news of the proposed merger with the Birthplace of Country Music Alliance, the Commissioners returned to this application. They agreed by consensus that the grant should be contingent upon receiving a detailed plan from each organization about expectations for the merger. The Executive Committee was authorized to take the final action on the grant.

Virginia Highlands Festival. Lisa Alderman expressed concern about the panel recommendation to drop this organization from Priority 1 to Priority 3 funding. She agreed with the panel concerns about financial management and declining attendance but stated that it would be better to award Priority 2 and give the organization time to address the concerns. Vaughan Webb made a motion to award Priority 2 funding. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

William King Museum. Concerns were expressed about recent actions of the William King Museum and the lack of information being provided to the community and to the Commission about the proposed changes. Peggy Baggett reported that the final report on the 2010-11 grant to the William King made reference to possibly operating as a “museum without walls.” It was unclear if the rumored merger with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is under serious consideration. The Commissioners agreed by consensus to award Priority 1 funding, contingent upon the organization providing a copy of the new strategic plan that is under development. In addition, there will be three payments on the grants with the second payment contingent upon a mid-year status report.

Willie Dell then made a motion to approve the panel and staff recommendations on the remaining General Operating Support applications from Area I. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area I Project Grants

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on the applications.

Chestnut Creek School of the Arts. Sharron Kitchen Miller, stating how impressed she was with this organization when the Commission met at the School in June of 2010, made a motion to award \$432 for the project. The motion was seconded and approved, 11-Yes and 2-No.

Ann Rust made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the remaining Project Grant applications from Area I. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area II General Operating Support Grants

Vaughan Webb, who had observed the panel meeting, said that the panelists were engaged and thoughtful.

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on the applications.

Ellington Fellowship Playhouse. Cathy Welborn noted that the Commission staff agreed with all of the positive comments by the panelists on this organization but that the organization had not filed a final report on its grant for the past four years. Ann Rust commented that if the organization did not comply with the grant conditions, there should be consequences. She made a motion to award Priority 2 funding. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Riverviews Artspace. Peggy Baggett explained the difficulty in getting correct financial information from this organization. She noted that the organizational structure is unique to Virginia with the condominium development, use of historic tax credits, and the not-for-profit art gallery. A draft of the most recent audit was distributed to the Commissioners. Peggy Baggett stated that she now has confidence that the current financial information is correct. Vaughan Webb spoke in favor of Priority 1 funding. Deborah Wyld made a motion to award Priority 2 funding. The motion was seconded and approved, 11-Yes and 2-No.

Vaughan Webb then made a motion to approve the panel and staff recommendations on the remaining General Operating Support applications from Area II. The motion was seconded

and approved unanimously.

Area II Project Grants

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on the applications.

Patrick County Music Association. Vaughan Webb expressed concern about the recommendation of the Commission staff of \$4,000 for this project. He noted that the educational impact of the project will be limited since students will only observe the musicians rehearse and hear a talk about traditional music with no interaction. He also noted that the application did not include information about the qualifications of the musicians to give lectures on traditional music. He made a motion to approve \$1,000 for the project. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Wharton Memorial Foundation. Gwen Everett stated that she would like to see support for the scholarships associated with this project. Ann Rust noted that the Commission does not have many grantees in this area of the state. Gwen Everett made a motion to award \$2,500 for the project. The motion was seconded and approved, 12-Yes and 1-No.

Sharron Miller made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the remaining Project Grants from Area II. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area III General Operating Support Grants

Ann Bondurant Trinkle, who observed the panel meeting, said that the panelists did a good job but had difficulty in evaluating the applications from area colleges and universities.

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on the applications.

Alleghany Highlands Arts Council. The question was raised of whether this organization had changed substantially since receiving Priority 1 funding for the past several years. Ann Rust pointed out that the Commission stated the same concerns about this organization for three years and that Priority 2 funding is appropriate since the concerns have not been addressed.

Arts Council of the Blue Ridge. The Commissioners agreed by consensus with the staff recommendation that, while this Arts Council faces significant challenges, the new Director should be given an opportunity to stabilize the organization and clarify its role in the community. Priority 2 funding was approved.

Fine Arts Center of the New River Valley. The Commissioners agreed with the panelists that there is no guarantee that the Fine Arts Center will be able to afford the new building. However, since the money has been raised for the purchase and renovation of the building, the organization should be given the benefit of the doubt. Ann Trinkle stated that Priority 1 funding is the appropriate level. The Commissioners agreed by consensus.

Vaughan Webb made a motion to approve the panel and staff recommendations on the remaining General Operating Support applications from Area III. The motion was seconded and approved with Ann Trinkle abstaining from the vote on the Jefferson Center.

Area III Project Grants

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on the applications.

Lisa Alderman made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the Project Grants from Area III. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area IVA General Operating Support Grants

Marcia Neuhaus Speck, who observed the Area IVA panel meeting, said that it was a solid panel and that the new panelists were active participants in the discussion.

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on the applications.

American Century Theatre. Ann Rust made a motion to accept the staff recommendation of Priority 1 funding for this application. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Arlington Philharmonic Association. Marcia Speck had attended a concert and reported that the orchestra has excellent musicians and that the playing was tight and crisp. Lisa Alderman made a motion to award Priority 2 funding. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Arts Council of Fairfax County. Several Commissioners expressed concern about the finances of this organization with the change from being a membership organization to relying upon individual donations and with the large draw-down from the reserve funds. Some Commissioners stated that all of the decisions may be sound ones for the long term but that there will likely be a significant short term impact on financial stability. It was noted that the Arts Council has a new CEO who should be given time to establish the new directions for the organization. Ann Rust made a motion to award Priority 1 funding with three payments on the grant and the second payment contingent upon a mid-year status report. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously with Gwen Everett abstaining from the vote.

Herndon Foundation for the Cultural Arts. Ann Rust made a motion to award Priority 2 funding to this new applicant. She shared information about the history of the organization that had not been provided to the advisory panel. She praised the exhibition series and the community support for this new venture. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Jane Franklin Dance. Vaughan Webb made a motion to approve the staff recommendation of Priority 1 funding for this organization. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Lorton Arts Foundation. Peggy Baggett described the problems with the financial information included with the grant application. She noted that this year is the fourth time that the organization did not provide a clear explanation of the financial information used to determine the grant request. A new Interim Director has taken over the leadership of the organization. Peggy Baggett met with him, and he stated that creating more transparent financial statements was a high priority for him. In response to a question, Ann Rust stated that she has known John Mason, the new Interim Director, for many years and that he has strong organizational skills. The Commission agreed by consensus with the staff recommendation of Priority 2 on this

application.

New Dominion Chorale. The comment was made that this organization sounds more like a social club than an arts organization. Ann Rust stated that this organization provides the opportunity for avocational singers to perform, the artistic results are credible, and there are full houses for the performances. Ann Rust made a motion to award Priority 2 funding. The motion was seconded and approved.

Vienna Arts Society. Concern was expressed about the tone of the responses to the question on compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Commissioners agreed by consensus with the recommendation of the Commission staff that this organization not be funded in the future unless it undergoes an accessibility review.

Deborah Wyld made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the remaining General Operating Support applications from Area IVA. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area IVA Project Grants

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on these applications.

Lisa Alderman made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on these applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area IVB General Operating Support Grants

Evelia Gonzalez Porto and Deborah Wyld, who observed the Area IVB panel, agreed that the panel had a diversity of viewpoints with some concentrating almost exclusively on the finances of the applicants and others primarily on the artistic achievements.

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on these applications.

Chateauville Foundation. There was a lengthy discussion in which the points below were made. Two Commissioners had attended performances on the property - one found the atmosphere welcoming and the other felt that the audience was primarily friends and neighbors without a sense of the general public being welcome.

- The high artistic quality is unquestioned.
- The organization is changing the artistic landscape of the county.
- Although other organizations, such as Garth Newel and Wolf Trap, serve larger audiences, the work of Chateauville is impressive.
- The grant request is large in comparison to the number of people being served. About 75% of the income comes from one generous individual which makes the organization eligible for the maximum General Operating Support grant.
- The signage from the road to the theatre is poor, which contributes to the feeling of the performances not being open to the general public.
- The outreach to area schools and plans to present performances in the Hylton Performing Arts Center are good steps in making this organization more of a community resource

rather than a private venture.

- As an audience member it is difficult to get information on tickets or times of the performances from the organization.
- The organization did not give credit to the Virginia Commission for the Arts in its programs, which is a condition of the grant awarded in the current year.
- This organization clearly has less financial need for Commission funding than other applicants in the area.
- It is a concern that it took several weeks to get a complete grant application from the organization this spring.
- The summer festival is a different experience than the performances in the theatre and brings in a large number of people from the community.
- This organization should be treated like Wolf Trap and receive Special Recognition funding rather than a General Operating Support grant.

Ann Rust made a motion to award Special Recognition funding. The motion was seconded and approved.

New Dominion Choraliers of Prince William County. Ann Rust stated that this organization provides the opportunity for avocational singers to perform and made a motion to award Priority 2 funding. The motion was seconded and approved.

Wayside Foundation for the Arts. Vaughan Webb made a motion to accept the staff recommendation of one more year of Priority 1 funding with three payments on the grant and the second payment contingent upon a mid-year status report. The motion was seconded and approved.

Sharron Miller made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the remaining General Operating Support applications from Area IVB. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area IVB Project Grants

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on these applications.

Deborah Wyld made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on these applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area V General Operating Support Grants

Marcia Thalhimer, who observed the panel meeting, stated that the panelists were impressive and had done their homework. She noted that one panelist had spent a good amount of time calling the applicants for additional information prior to the panel meeting.

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on these applications.

CultureWorks. Ann Rust made a motion to accept the staff recommendation of Priority 1 funding. The motion was seconded and approved with Evelia Porto abstaining.

Elegba Folklore Society. There was a discussion of the ongoing problem of getting complete applications on time from this organization and of the failure of the organization to address the ongoing concerns of the Commission about the organizational structure. It was noted that the quality of performances is high but that it is a one-person operation with a non-functioning board of directors and no individual contributions. Willie Dell made a motion to award Priority 3 funding with notification that future funding will be contingent upon addressing the organizational issues. The motion was seconded and approved, 8-Yes and 5-No.

Vaughan Webb made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the remaining General Operating Support grants from Area V. The motion was seconded and approved with Evelia Porto abstaining from voting on the Petersburg Area Art League.

Area V Project Grants

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on these applications.

Deborah Wyld made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the Project Grants from Area V. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area VI General Operating Support Grants

Deborah Wyld, who observed the panel meeting, commented that overall the panel did a good job but that there was one panelist who was clearly not prepared for the meeting.

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on these applications.

Norfolk Chamber Consort. Deborah Wyld noted that this organization has a longstanding loyal following and fills a niche in Hampton Roads. Sharron Miller made a motion to approve the staff recommendation of Priority 1 funding. The motion was seconded and approved.

Rawls Museum Arts. Deborah Wyld noted that this organization serves an area of the state with little other arts activity. Its focus is local artists and local audiences. Willie Dell made a motion to accept the staff recommendation of Priority 1 funding. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Suffolk Center for the Cultural Arts. There was discussion about the difficulty in getting complete financial information from this applicant. Ann Rust stated that the organization should not be funded since it did not follow the application guidelines. There was also discussion about the difficulty that the organization has had since its opening in finding its role in the community. Marcia Thalhimer made a motion to approve Priority 3 funding. The motion was seconded and approved, 11-Yes, 2-No. The Commissioners agreed by consensus that no applications should be accepted from the organization in the future unless the financial information is complete and accurate.

Willie Dell made a motion to approve the panel and staff recommendations on the remaining applications for General Operating Support from Area VI. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area VI Project Grants

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on these applications.

Lyric Opera of Virginia. Several Commissioners noted that the application from this new company did not include any dates for performances or the master classes for which the Project Grant is requested. The Commissioners agreed by consensus that no payment should be made on the grant until the dates for master classes are confirmed.

Evelia Gonzalez Porto made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the remaining Project Grant applications from Area VI. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

General Operating Support for Major Arts Institutions

Marcia Thalhimer and Ann Rust, who observed the panel meeting, agreed that the advisory panel was excellent - well informed and well prepared.

Contemporary Art Center of Virginia. Deborah Wyld stated that she agreed with the panel recommendation of Priority 2 funding but noted that the Art Center is bringing a major Andy Warhol exhibit next year with the City of Virginia Beach committed to a major marketing effort. This exhibit will raise the visibility and stature of the Art Center in the community.

Taubman Museum of Art. Ann Trinkle commented that although the Museum still faces major financial problems, the situation has improved since last spring. The Museum has a balanced operating budget, corporate fundraising has improved, and attendance is up. Vaughan Webb made a motion to approve Priority 1 funding with three payments on the grant and the second payment contingent upon a mid-year status report. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Virginia Opera. The Commissioners noted that the letters from the organization in response to the panel comments contained helpful information. Deborah Wyld made a motion for Priority 1 funding. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Virginia Symphony. Nick Covatta stated that the organization has made substantial progress in getting its finances in order and that the artistic quality is high. Gwen Everett stated that since the organization did not follow the application instructions and did not submit a complete application, awarding full funding to this organization would reward bad behavior. It was noted that the Commission has issued warnings and put conditions on funding for this organization for many years and that full funding would be unfair to the other applicants who made an effort to submit complete and accurate applications. Marcia Thalhimer made a motion to award Priority 1.5 (halfway between Priority 1 and 2) to this applicant. The motion was seconded and approved, 8-Yes, 4-No.

Willie Dell made a motion to approve the panel and staff recommendations on the remaining applications for General Operating Support for Major Arts Institutions. The motion was seconded and approved with Marcia Thalhimer abstaining from voting on the Richmond

Symphony.

Short Form General Operating Support Applications

Vaughan Webb made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the short form General Operating Support applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Special Recognition Awards

Peggy Baggett presented the information on the requests from the Blue Ridge Institute of Ferrum College and Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts for Special Recognition Awards. Deborah Wyld made a motion to award \$5,000 to each organization. The motion was seconded and approved with Vaughan Webb abstaining from voting on the Blue Ridge Institute.

Ann Rust made a motion to award \$5,000 in Special Recognition funding to Chateauville Foundation. The motion was seconded and, after discussion, was approved 11-yes, 1-No.

Services to the Field Grants

Peggy Baggett presented the panel and staff recommendations on these applications.

Arts Alliance Mountain Empire. Several Commissioners expressed concern that the application stated that the grant would be used to increase the pay of the editor of A! Magazine. There was consensus among the Commissioners to award a grant to show support for the magazine, which provides extensive information about the arts in southwest Virginia, but to notify the applicant that future applications should be for new or expanded services.

Willie Dell made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the Services to the Field applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Local Government Challenge Grants

Foster Billingsley presented the information on the applications. Several Commissioners commented that this grant program leverages a large amount of other money for the arts. Ann Rust made a motion to approve full funding for all of the applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

2012-13 Tour Directory

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on the applications.

Virginia Handbell Consort. Ann Rust stated that there is a market for the work of this ensemble and that there is no other ensemble like it in the Tour Directory. She made a motion to include the Virginia Handbell Consort in the Tour Directory with an allocation of \$1,000. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

The Conciliation Project. Peggy Baggett recommended that the Commission turn down the request to be included in the 2012-13 Tour Directory and encourage the organization to apply

again next year with more complete information about the actors involved in the productions. The Commissioners agreed by consensus.

Deborah Wyld made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the remaining applications to be listed in the Tour Directory. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Artist Residency Grants

Sharron Kitchen Miller, who observed the panel meeting, described the panelists as engaged, well prepared, and hardworking.

Foster Billingsley presented the panel and staff recommendations on the applications.

Art Center in Orange. Ann Rust stated that, although the grant application could have been better written, the Art Center in Orange is a first-time applicant in the Artist Residency Program. The Commission does not have many grantees in Orange County, the Kid Pan Alley program is excellent, and the Art Center is a solid organization. She made a motion to award \$2,500 for this application. The motion was seconded and approved, 12-Yes, 1-No.

Sharron Miller made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the remaining Artist Residency Grants. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

2011-12 Grants Budget

Peggy Baggett reviewed the changes in the draft 2011-12 grants budget resulting from Commission actions on individual grant applications. Vaughan Webb made a motion to approve the amended grants budget. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Incomplete and Inaccurate Grant Applications

The Commissioners had a discussion on the growing problem of incomplete and inaccurate grant applications in which the following points were made.

- Arts organizations have downsized their staffs with the result that there are fewer people to do the work and staff members have been assigned responsibilities for which they are not trained.
- The Commissioners are sympathetic with the stress faced by understaffed arts organizations, but the Commission also needs to be a good steward of public funds.
- The General Operating Support application forms are long and complicated, and it is easy to overlook an item. However, once the Commission staff has notified the applicants about the missing information, it should be sent in a timely manner. There was agreement that the Commission staff should not ask for missing information more than twice.
- Is there some way to use technology to prompt grant writers about incomplete applications?
- Should the Commission make the deadline for final reports earlier in the year so that the Commission has seen the reports before awarding grants for the following year?

- Now that the number of Commission staff has been reduced, it is difficult for the staff to spend considerable time getting missing information from a handful of applicants. It also is unfair to the other applicants who are careful about sending complete and accurate applications .

Acknowledgement of Commission Support

With so many competing demands for public funds, it is more important than ever for grantees of the Commission to acknowledge publicly the support of the Commission and to thank their legislators who appropriated the funds. Sharron Miller made a motion to require grantees to send the Commission copies of their thank you letters to their representatives in the General Assembly as a condition of receiving the second payments on the grants. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

There was agreement that the Commission needs to begin enforcing penalties for grantees that fail to use the Commission logo in printed materials and on their websites, which is a condition of funding. There was consensus that the Commission staff should continue to send the standard letter to grantees who fail to acknowledge the Commission. Nick Covatta recommended that over the summer the Policy Committee should develop specific guidelines for penalties for not acknowledging Commission support.

Technical Assistance

Peggy Baggett reviewed the decision of the Commission in 2010-11 to limit Technical Assistance grants to organizations that are not receiving General Operating Support. The Commission staff recommended that for 2011-12 General Operating Support grantees should be eligible for Technical Assistance grants. Ann Rust made a motion to accept the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Deadline for Local Government Challenge Grants

Peggy Baggett presented the recommendation of the Commission staff that localities receiving a Local Government Challenge Grant be given a deadline to draw down the funds. After discussion the Commissioners agreed that the deadline should be February 1, 2012, with the Commission staff sending two reminders before that date and with a 30 day window of leniency in the first year of this new policy. Sharron Miller made a motion to approve this change. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Updates

Jim Thompson, Vice President of Virginians for the Arts, gave a report on the current activities of the organization.

Peggy Baggett gave a report on the May 6th Majors Roundtable meeting.

Peggy Baggett gave a report on MINDS WIDE OPEN: Virginia Celebrates Children and the Arts.

Peggy Baggett reported on the status of the Governor's Arts Awards.

Nick Covatta reported on advocacy plans for the coming year.

Recognition of Outgoing Commissioners

Deborah Wyld thanked Nick Covatta and Vaughan Webb, whose terms on the Commission board end June 30, for their service to the Commission and to the arts.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Nick Covatta gave the report of the Nominating Committee which recommended the following slate of officers for 2011-12:

Chair	Deborah Wyld
Vice Chair	Lisa Alderman
Secretary	Marcia Neuhaus Speck

Nick Covatta asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There being none, the nominations were closed, and the report of the Nominating Committee was approved unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m.